

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A computerized method for billing for web services comprising the steps of:

- creating a descriptor file designating a pre-defined element;
- storing said descriptor file in a tangible computer readable medium;
- configuring a handler resident on a computer comprising a processor operable to execute computer readable instructions to monitor a web service network communication, between a service requestor and a service provider, for said predefined element in said descriptor file;
- configuring said handler to send said pre-defined element to a set of programmed instructions to create an event record, wherein the set of programmed instructions is configured to copy the pre-defined element from the network communication into the event record;
- electronically transmitting said event record to a billing system for further processing;

wherein the handler configured to monitor for said predefined element in said descriptor file is located at an entity taken from the list of entities consisting of:

- a) the service requestor; and
- b) the service provider.

2. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said programmed instructions are configured to determine whether an event corresponding to said event record requires authorization.
3. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said programmed instructions are configured to determine whether an event corresponding to said event record requires rating.
4. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising: transforming said pre-defined element according to a set of instructions in said descriptor file before transmitting said event record to the billing system.
5. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said web service network communication comprises a request for a web service and a response to said request wherein said request comprises a start time and said response comprises an end time and further comprising the steps of:
  - creating a first event record comprising said start time;
  - sending said first event record to said billing system;
  - queuing said first event record in said billing system;
  - creating a second event record comprising said end time;
  - sending said second event record to said billing system;
  - matching said first event record with said second event record;
  - calculating a charge for said web service based on said start time and said end time;

- returning said charge to said service provider.
6. (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said billing system comprises programmed billing instructions coded to determine whether a web service transaction may be performed.
  7. (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to determine if said service requestor is permitted to access said web service transaction.
  8. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said billing system returns a response to said web service provider indicating whether said web service transaction should proceed.
  9. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to determine whether said service requestor is solvent enough to purchase said web service transaction.
  10. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to return a response to a set of application code associated with said web service provider indicating whether said web service transaction should proceed.
  11. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to return a response to said web service provider indicating a quantity for said web service transaction to proceed.
  12. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said web service network communication comprises a SOAP message stream; wherein the

service requestor accesses the service provider on a direct peer-to-peer basis; and wherein the handler is located at the service provider.

13. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said SOAP message stream comprises a set of data including quality of service information, authorization key fields, version numbers, encrypted account information, and start/stop time.
14. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said billing system uses said pre-defined element in said SOAP message stream to support at least one pre-defined billing plan.
15. (Previously Presented) A computerized method as claimed in claim 14 wherein said pre-defined billing plans is chosen from a list consisting of subscriptions, bundled plans, time-based usage plans, re-occurring charges, one-time charges, discount plans based on usage, discount plans based on time-of-day, discount plans based on customer loyalty, discount plans based on family/organization relationships, tiered plans, location dependent pricing, and combinations thereof.
16. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions operable to configure a computer to perform ~~for performing~~ a method comprising:
  - [[ - ]]a) receiving a descriptor file, wherein the descriptor file designates ~~designating~~ at least one pre-defined element;
  - [[ - ]]b) ~~utilizing said descriptor file to monitor~~ monitoring a web service network communication for the at least one pre-defined element from the descriptor file ~~said pre-defined element(s)~~;

[[~~-~~]c) copying the at least one pre-defined element ~~said-predefined element(s)~~ from said network communication into a record; and

[[~~-~~]d) ~~electronically~~ sending said record to a billing system for further processing.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein:

- a) the monitored web service network communication is between a service requestor and a service provider; ~~and wherein~~
- b) the computer readable medium is located at the service provider; and
- c) the web service network communication comprises a communication where the service requestor accesses the service provider on a direct peer-to-peer basis.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 19, ~~wherein the web service network communication comprises a communication where the service requestor accesses the service provider on a direct peer-to-peer basis~~ 16, wherein the instructions are further operable to configure the computer to receive a response from the billing system indicating whether a web service transaction corresponding to the web service network communication should proceed.

21. (New) A machine comprising:

- a) a tangible computer readable medium, wherein the tangible computer readable medium stores a descriptor file designating one or more pre-defined elements;
- b) a means for extracting usage and billing authorization data from a web service message stream based on the one or more pre-defined elements designated by the descriptor file; and

- c) an event composer, wherein the event composer is in communication with the means for extracting, and is configured to send a message created using information received from the means for extracting to an external system for further processing.
22. (New) The machine of claim 21, wherein:
- a) the descriptor file stored on the tangible computer readable medium comprises a means for designating one or more pre-defined elements; and
  - b) the further processing comprises determining whether a transaction corresponding to the web service message stream should proceed.